

AT HOME

An empty house is a tempting target for a burglar. Use this checklist of tips to safeguard your home while you are gone.

- Have good locks on all doors and windows, and use them.
- Engrave your valuables with your driver's license number (preceded by "CA") or other identification number and post Operation Identification stickers in entry doors and windows.
- Never leave your house key hidden outside under a doormat, in a flower pot or on the ledge of a door.
- Tell your local law enforcement agency you plan to be away. Patrol officers may be able to check your home periodically.
- Stop all deliveries, or arrange for someone to pick up your mail, newspapers, and packages.
- Arrange for someone to mow your lawn, shovel snow, or rake leaves to give our home a lived-in look.
- Use timers to turn lights and a radio on and off at appropriate times.
- Hide garbage cans in the basement or a storage shed. Empty cans when everyone else's are full can tell a burglar you are away.
- Turn the bell on your telephone down low so a burglar will not be alerted to your absence by its ringing.
- Close and lock garage doors and window. Ask a neighbor to park occasionally in your driveway. If you leave your car at home, park it in the driveway rather than the garage. Have your neighbor move it occasionally so it looks like you are using it.
- Leave your blinds, shades and curtains in a normal position. Do not close them unless that is what you do when you are at home.
- Ask a neighbor to watch the house while you are away. Leave your vacation address and telephone number with a neighbor so you can be reached in case of emergency.

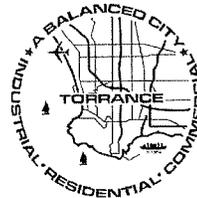


TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT VACATION CHECK

The Torrance Police Department offers Vacation Security Checks to all Torrance residents. While you are away on vacation, officers from the Torrance Police Department will periodically stop by your home to check for open doors, broken windows or any other suspicious circumstances. This is another added security precaution you can utilize to safeguard your possessions and assure your peace of mind while you are on vacation. This is a free, but invaluable service provided by the Torrance Police Department to the citizens of Torrance, to schedule your Vacation Check call 1-310-618-6392 or e-mail your request to:

Communityaffairs@torrnet.com

Provided by



Torrance Police Department

John J. Neu
Chief of Police
1-310-328-3456

Community Affairs
1-310-618-6391 or 1-310-618-6392

3300 Civic Center Drive
Torrance, CA 90503

Crime prevention tips from:

The National Crime Prevention Council
1700 K Street, N.W. Second Floor
Washington D.C. 20006

VACATION SECURITY



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**TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME®**

OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

ON THE ROAD

- Never carry large amounts of cash; use traveler's checks. If you must carry large sums of money, do not display it openly.
- Keep a record of traveler's check and credit card numbers in a safe place. Have the telephone numbers to call in case your checks or credit cards are lost or stolen.
- Be aware of your surroundings and never advertise our plans, including travel routes and the amount of cash you are carrying.
- Do not stop to offer help to a stranded motorist. Go to the nearest telephone booth and call for assistance.
- If you suspect someone is following you, drive to the nearest service station, restaurant, or business and call the police or sheriff's department. If you believe it is unsafe to get out of your car, honk your horn and flash your lights to draw attention.
- If your car breaks down, raise the hood and attach a white cloth to the car antenna as an emergency signal. Stay in your locked car. Ask anyone who stops to call the police or a garage. If you must abandon your car, keep all passengers together.

HOTEL AND MOTEL SECURITY

- When staying overnight at a hotel or motel, remember the following:
- Determine the most direct route to and from your room to the fire escapes, elevators, and nearest telephone.
- Use all auxiliary locking devices on doors and windows. You may want to purchase a portable door lock for traveling.
- Use the door viewer to identify anyone requesting entry. Open the door only if you are certain the person has a legitimate reason to enter your room. If in doubt, call the office.
- Unpack and place belongings in the closet and dresser. Arrange your things so you will know if anything is missing.

- Consider locking any electrical appliances in your luggage. Suitcases should always be locked so they cannot be used to carry your property out of your room
- Never leave money, checks, credit cards, or car keys in the room. Take them with you.
- Use the hotel/motel safe to store extra cash, expensive jewelry, or other valuables.
- Report any lost or stolen items to the management and to the police.
- Report to the management any suspicious movements in the corridors or rooms. Remember, the only way to stop crime is to get involved in crime prevention.

CAR SECURITY

- Always lock your car.
- Always lock valuables out of sight, preferably in the trunk. Always carry wallets, checkbooks, and purses with you.
- Do not advertise that you are a tourist. Place maps and travel brochures in the glove compartment.
- Park in well-lighted, busy areas.
- Check the back seat before getting into your car.
- Mark your car radio and other removable car equipment with your driver's license number (preceded by "CA") for identification).

SIGHTSEEING

- Remember: Planning reduces your chance of becoming the victim of a crime.
- Ask for directions at the hotel/motel to those attractions you want to visit.
- Select tour guides carefully.
- Ask if any areas in town should be avoided. Stick to well-lighted main streets and public areas.
- Looking lost may make you look like an easy target for crime. If you do get lost, find an open business and ask for directions.

- Only carry with you the cash you will need, and carry only small denominations.
- If older children go off separately, be sure they understand the importance of keeping track of time and returning promptly at appointed hours.

WHEN YOU RETURN HOME, IF YOU SUSPECT A BURGLARY

- Do not go in. Go to a neighbor's and call police immediately. Wait outside for them to arrive. Do not try to confront a burglar.
- After a burglary, do not touch anything. Call the police immediately—a delay can reduce the chances of catching the criminal.

